Remarks

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-5, 10 and 12 were rejected as unpatentable over Kolvites and Creamer; claim 9 was rejected as unpatentable over Kolvites, Creamer and Mangina; claims 11 and 13 were rejected as unpatentable over Kolvites, Creamer and Violi; claims 14-17 and 27 were rejected as unpatentable over Kolvites in view of Smith; claims 18-26 were rejected as unpatentable over Kolvites, Smith and Mangina; claims 20 was rejected as unpatentable over Kolvites, Smith, Mangina and Creamer. Claims 6-8 and 25-26 were identified as containing allowable subject matter.

The rejected of claims 1-5, 10 and 12 based upon the combination of Kolvites and Creamer is respectfully traversed. The action asserts that Kolvites includes a regulation chamber 11 with an admission duct 33, and that Creamer teaches that such an admission duct extend between a high and low end, with the high end outside the regulation chamber and enclosure and the low end closed by liquid in the regulation chamber when the level of liquid corresponds to its substantially high level. Applicant notes that the Kolvites "admission duct" 33 is an inlet for spraying water into the steam generator chamber 11. Likewise, the Creamer "admission duct" 64 is an inlet for adding water into the reservoir 120 via a fill trough 60. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the admission duct is an ***air admission duct***, which distinguishes over both Kolvites and Creamer. Even, when combined, the references do not teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious an oven with an air admission duct which extends between a high end and a low end, the high end opening out outside a regulation chamber and an oven enclosure, and the low end being closed by the liquid in the regulation chamber when the level of the liquid corresponds substantially to its high level. Claim 1 is distingusihable for at least this reason, and dependent claims 4-5 and 10 are distinguishable for at least the same reason.

Moreover, addressing dependent claim 2, such claim has been amended to clarify that the evacuation chamber communicating with the regulation chamber during oven cooking operations. This is in contrast to Kolvites, which clearly teaches that the path from generator chamber 11 to tempering water tank 13 via drain pipe 40 is normally closed by a solenoid valve

41 during oven operation, the solenoid valve 41 being opened to flush the generator 11 when the heater coil is delimed (see Kolvites at col 6, line 59 – col. 7, line 2).

With respect to claim 3, applicant notes that seal tube 22 in Kolvites opens below the water level of water tempering tank 13, not above the water level.

With respect to claim 5, such claim has been amended to clarify that the regulator provides the regulation chamber and evacuation chamber in a side by side relationship (e.g., per the regulator 31 of Fig. 2 of the present application) and that a partition is provided in the regulator to partially divide the two chambers. Kolvites does not teach such a structure and modification of Kolvites to have such a structure would defeat the purpose of having the tempering tank 13 below the steam generator 11 so that water can be drained from the generator 11 to the tempering tank 13.

With respect to claim 10, such claim has been amended to clarify that the vapour-producing means is external to the regulating chamber (e.g., per vapour-producing means 30 shown in Fig. 2 of the present application). In Kolvites, the vapour-producing means is the steam generator 11 itself, which the action asserts constitutes the regulation chamber.

With respect to claim 9, Mangina does not make up for the deficiencies of Kolvites and Creamer with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 9 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

With respect to claims 11 and 13, Violi does not make up for the deficiencies of Kolvites and Creamer with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claims 11 and 13 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, the rejections based upon Kolvites and Creamer; Kolvites. Creamer and Mangina and Kolvites, Creamer and Violi should be withdrawn.

New claim 101 is includes certain limitations of claims 1 and 2, and is therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as described above with respect to claims 1 and 2.

The rejection of claims 14-17 and 27 as being unpatentable over Kolvites and Smith is respectfully traversed. Claim 14 has been amended above to clearly recite that a second temperature probe is located outside the enclosure and that the control calculates humidity as a

function of temperatures measured at the first and second probes. As noted in the action, Kolvites does not disclose a first temperature probe to measure gases issuing from the evacuation apertue. Although Smith does disclose a temperature probe 62 along the evacuation path, Smith teaches the use of such temperature probe to regulate steam production, not to calculate humidity. Specifically, the Smith probe 62 can be used to determine if steam is exiting the enclosure or not during a steam cooking mode (see column 6, lines 39-49). The equation in column 6 is used to calculate initial water flow rate, not humidity, and is based upon the cavity temperature CT, which is indicated by the cavity temperature sensor 64, not the rempertaure probe 62. Thus, the equation referenced by the examiner is not even based upon the temperature indicated by probe 62. During a steam cooking mode, humidity is not an issue, as the goal is simply to produce a full cavity of steam, without causing an excessive amount of steam to exit the cooking chamber in a manner that would reduce efficiency. Thus, Smith does not teach the use of the temperature of the probe 62 to calculate humidity. Moreover, claim 14 has been amended to recite that a second temperature probe is located outside the enclosure, and the control calculates humidity as a function of the temperature at the first and second probes. Smith does not teach two probes outside of the enclosure that are used for humidity calculation.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 14 should be withdrawn, and dependent claims 18-27 are likewise allowable. Moreover, dependent claims 20, 21 and 22 are allowable for reasons similar to those noted above with respect to claims 1, 2 and 5 respectively.

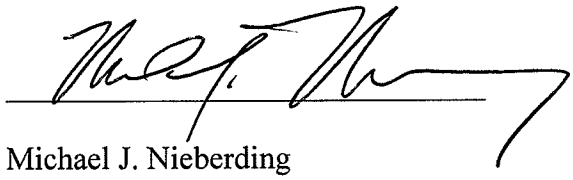
Conclusion

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required (including the fee for any extension of time), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct No.: 20-0809.

The examiner may contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this paper.

Respectfully submitted,



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